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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 464

By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Ms. Dana Davis upon being named as one of Tennessee's top two youth volunteers and for laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those persons who, through their personal efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, throughout its illustrious history, Tennessee has been blessed with citizens who have performed with extraordinary devotion and, who through their personal endeavors, are credits to their respective families, communities, and professions; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Dana Davis, who was selected as one of Tennessee's top two youth volunteers; and

WHEREAS, Dana will go to Washington, D.C., where she will compete for several days against the top honorees from each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico in The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards; and

WHEREAS, the nationwide program, now in its fifth year, honors young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, nominated by the Sullivan County 4-H Office in Blountville, Dana Davis was selected among 20,000 high school and middle level students for her efforts in promoting youth tobacco prevention; and

WHEREAS, the multi-talented junior at Gateway Christian School in Kingsport developed a multi-media stage show using puppetry, music, ventriloquism and audience participation to warn children about the dangers of smoking; and

WHEREAS, "Dana and Company" was started in 1997 by Ms. Davis as a living tribute to her grandfather, who died after many years of tobacco use; and

WHEREAS, singing and performing professionally since the tender age of eleven, Dana began her anti-tobacco campaign by researching the best types of materials for elementary school students, writing scripts, and learning ventriloquism; and

WHEREAS, Dana Davis showed tremendous organizational and leadership skills by recruiting a team of expert volunteers, including adults, teens, business leaders, and members of a regional youth tobacco prevention group. She also formed partnerships with Character Counts, the Boy Scouts, the American Lung Association, and the American Heart Association; and

WHEREAS, since the implementation of her campaign, Dana has tirelessly given 250 presentations and reached more than 15,000 youth; and

WHEREAS, Dana Davis truly epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, as a state honoree, Dana will receive \$1000, an engraved silver medallion, and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. in May, when the top ten honorees – five middle level and five high school students – will be named as America's top youth volunteers for 2000 by a prestigious national selection committee; and

WHEREAS, these national honorees will receive an additional \$5000, a gold medallion, and a crystal trophy. The selection committee will be co-chaired by U.S. Senators Byron

Dorgan of North Dakota and Susan Collins of Maine; some of the other committee members include, actor Richard Dreyfuss, the President and CEO of the Points of Light Foundation, the National Executive Director of Girl Scouts of the USA, and two 1999 Prudential Spirit of the Community national honorees; and

WHEREAS, the awards are part of a broad initiative created by Prudential to encourage young people to become involved in community service; and

WHEREAS, throughout her excellent service, Dana has adhered to the common sense approach, working extremely well with old and young alike; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Davis is a tremendous source of inspiration for those who know and cherish her; she gives unreservedly of herself for the betterment of those around her; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Dana Davis for her dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Ms. Dana Davis for her exemplary service to the state of Tennessee, extending to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.